

**REMARKS**

The amendments are considered to place the claims in better condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

**FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,  
MINNICH & McKEE, LLP**

March 16, 2004  
Date

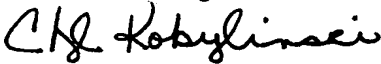
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I certify that this Preliminary Amendment is being

- ☐ deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, addressed to: MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.
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<b>Express Mail Label No.:</b> EL 964453175 US
<b>Date</b> MARCH 11, 2004

<b>Signature</b> 
<b>Printed Name</b> Cheryl M. Kobylinski